



Date: September 17, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Carl Kemp, Manager of Public/Government Affairs
Subject: City Report: Week In Review for Week Ending September 17, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending September 17, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

West Nile Virus Update: Health and Human Services

Long Beach has documented two new human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in the past week. The cumulative city total this year is nine cases, of which one resulted in death, one individual is currently hospitalized, while the rest of the individuals are recovering at home.

Vector Control Program added 15 new sites to the spraying list. Over 50 new complaints of locations of standing water have been investigated, and as required, have been treated to prevent mosquito growth. If warranted, these sites will be treated as part of the regularly scheduled weekly sprayings of over 300 miles of residential gutters.

The Public Health Laboratory conducted 15 new WNV confirmatory tests this last week. To date, the Laboratory has conducted over 293 WNV tests.

On September 13, 14 and 16, staff provided WNV educational presentations to Long Beach residents at the Main Library, Disabled Resource Center, Lincoln Elementary, and St. Mary's Neighborhood Improvement Center. To date 20, community presentations and 8 health care provider presentations have been delivered.

Over 171 additional homes have had WNV educational information personally delivered by Environmental Health Bureau staff, resulting in over 1,071 homes receiving this information since July 2004.

Police

On September 16, the Grand Jury conducted a routine inspection of the Long Beach Police Department's Jail. The Grand Jury gave the Police Department a positive report and was extremely impressed with the Jail upgrades and closed circuit monitors. Members of the Grand Jury stated that the Long Beach Police Department's Jail should be used as a model for other agencies to follow.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

The Youth Services Division has opened five Long Beach WRAP 21st Century Community Center After School Programs, out of seven planned sites. Sites currently in operation include Garfield, Starr King, Edison, Lafayette and Lee Elementary Schools. By the end of the first week of operation, several of these sites had already reached maximum enrollment and the programs are highly sought after by students, parents and faculty.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

The grand opening ceremony for the Houghton Skate and BMX Bike Park was held on September 11. Throughout the day, approximately 1,000 youth, community members, and City dignitaries enjoyed watching pro bike riders perform bike tricks in the bowl, listening to music, and visiting the numerous vendor booths that provided free merchandise and equipment. The Skate Park on Wheels crew set up ramps and rails for participants in the day's festivities, which was used by 50 to 70 skaters. This is the second skatepark in the City of Long Beach, but the first one combining a skatepark and BMX Bike Park. The Public Works Department was instrumental in the construction of the new facilities.

AWARDS

Helen Putnam Awards, Community Development and Library Services

The California League of Cities announced today at its annual conference in Long Beach, that the City of Long Beach is the winner of two prestigious Helen Putnam awards. One award, in the category of Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics and Community Involvement, was given to the Neighborhood Resource Center. The City's Library won an award in the category of Community Services and Economic Development. Of the 167 nominations submitted to the League in 2004, only 24 cities were honored.

The City of Long Beach Neighborhood Resource Center was created as an innovative facility that provides community-based, volunteer organizations with tools, training, and assistance to help them improve their neighborhoods. The Center was established based on a community needs assessment. Neighborhoods have been enhanced and the level of citizen participation in local government has increased because the Neighborhood Resource Center is educating, assisting and empowering the residents of Long Beach.

The Library's Information Center for People with Disabilities won the League of California Cities 2004 Helen Putnam Award in the category of Community Services and Economic Development. The Center, opened in October 2003, is a state-of-the-art technology center offering computers with assistive software and adaptive hardware designed specifically to help people with (dis)abilities. The unique feature of this Center is the peer volunteer staffing by members of the disabled community, which helps to provide a low-cost solution to the staffing challenge. This Center has had over 1,200 visitors since opening and it provides all residents of the city, regardless of their (dis)ability, easy access to the Information Highway and other library resources.

AWARDS (continued)

Police

The Long Beach Community Hispanic Association recognized East Division Commander Linda Beardslee for her outstanding achievements to the local Latino Community. She was the recipient of the Excellence in Public Safety Community Service Award for her support of public safety programs and her efforts to promote safe and healthy neighborhoods. Commander Beardslee has been with the Police Department for nearly 30 years.

Health and Human Services

Calvin Moore and Kerry Brown, who work in the community for the Department's Beach Mobile Health Clinic, were among the 15 recipients of the First Central Area Recovery Awards at California Recreational Park. Recipients of the award were recognized for having pulled themselves from drug and alcohol addiction, and are examples of individuals who rebuilt their lives.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Fire

The Long Beach Search and Rescue will be celebrating its 42nd anniversary on Saturday, **September 18** at 11:00 a.m. This very special event will include displays of personnel and equipment, award presentations, rescue demonstrations, and tours of the facility. It will be held at the Fire Training grounds at 2247 Argonne Avenue. The Long Beach Search and Rescue is a hugely successful program that provides young people with skills and training for future career opportunities in the fire and emergency medical service and law enforcement fields.

Twenty-four residents will graduate from the Long Beach Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) Program on Saturday, **September 18** at 1:30 p.m. at the Fire Training Center, 2249 Argonne Avenue. The program meets Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements and is taught in both English and Spanish. The complete course consists of six, three-hour modules held on consecutive Tuesday nights. A new CERT course is scheduled to begin on October 14. Additional information is available by contacting the CERT hotline at 570-2525.

West Nile Virus Update: Health and Human Services

Information on West Nile Virus will be presented to community groups at the St. Luke's Church on **September 22** and Martin Luther King Park on **September 29**.

Fire

The Long Beach Fire Kids will be hosting its annual "Camp-Fest" visit at Miller Children's Hospital on Thursday, **September 23**. A camp-out is simulated for the children who are patients at the hospital.

PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

Public Works Department, Project Management and Facilities Management

The renovation of the Public Safety Building and Fire Station #1 at Chestnut and Broadway continues and has a scheduled completion date of December 2004. Wall framing is complete in both buildings. Hardscape and landscape activities have begun and the furniture order is being finalized.

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,186 emergency calls for service: 163 calls for fires of which 23 involved structures. It also responded to 777 emergency medical calls; 514 required paramedics.

Police

Patrol Officers and Auto Theft and Burglary Detectives conducted a Bait Car Operation in an effort to combat auto thefts. A "bait" car was placed in different locations throughout the city where auto theft is a problem and a surveillance conducted. Four suspects were arrested as a result of the operation.

In the Department's continuing effort to focus on the problem of prostitution, Vice Detectives conducted a citywide Prostitution Abatement Program. Detectives made 26 arrests for prostitution-related offenses.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

Several capital improvement projects in the parks continued during the week. Projects include accessibility improvements at MacArthur and Whaley Parks. At Silverado Park the accessibility improvements have been completed. The final design for accessibility improvement projects is underway for the El Dorado Park administration building, Bixby Knolls Park and El Dorado Regional Park. At Admiral Kidd Park the new soccer field and parking lot are complete and the turf should be ready in two more weeks. Development at Officer Daryle W. Black Memorial and Burton W. Chace Parks is moving forward.

Public Works Department, Project Management and Facilities Management

Planning submittals for the proposed Homeland Cultural Center, which will be located in McArthur Park, have taken place. The project is tentatively planned for submission to the Planning Commission in the third week of November.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

The East Village Association's 2nd Saturday Art Walk, on Linden between 1st St. and Broadway, was held on September 11 with an estimated attendance of 300.

The Belmont Car Show, with an estimated attendance of 75,000, was held September 12 on 2nd St.

Canterbury Productions, with a cast and crew of 150, filmed "Joan of Arcadia" on September 15-16 at 2210 4th St, 3406 Broadway, and 241 Cedar Ave.

SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)

Public Works Department, Project Management and Facilities Management

The Mayor's annual September 11 Remembrance Event was held on September 10 at Civic Center Plaza. Staff prepared the area, and provided the stage and electrical service.

Health and Human Services

Staff convened the Long Beach Hospital Roundtable Meeting on September 17. Hospital Roundtable meetings are an opportunity for local health agencies, including representatives from all Long Beach area hospitals, to share ideas on community health issues. Staff presented on WNV and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Los Angeles County Emergency Management Services discussed the impact of emergency department and hospital closures on health access in the County.

Staff met with representatives of the Long Beach Dental Health Clinic on September 10 and provided recommendations regarding operational and financial issues, and possible options for the Clinic. The Children's Dental Health Clinic has been in Long Beach since 1932 and serves the needs of many underserved children in the area.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Public Works, Planning and Facilities Management

All City Hall elevators have been renovated and are online. In recognition of the Public Corporation for the Arts' assistance with the interior décor design, a plaque has been ordered for each elevator. A floor directory will also be installed in each elevator.

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 2,458 service calls during the week of September 5 through September 11, 2004. This total included 968 Gas and Water Utility Turn On orders, and 814 Turn Off orders. There were 544 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 132-meter maintenance and billing related orders were completed.

Of the total number of service calls received, 102 customer emergency orders were completed during this period.

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Weeklyupdate 9/17/2004.doc

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